

44468

REFER TO



STATE OF COLORADO
Roy Romer, Governor
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Perry D. Olson, Director
6060 Broadway
Denver, Colorado 80216
Telephone (303) 297 1192

Wildlife Research Center
317 West Prospect
Fort Collins, CO 80526

March 22, 1990

Ron Zuck
EG&G, Rocky Flats Plant
Environmental Restoration
Building T-130b
P O Box 464
Golden, CO 80601

Dear Ron

This letter follows our general discussions of 22 March 1990. The Colorado Division of Wildlife is developing a recovery plan for plains sharp-tailed grouse, a race of grouse that is classified as endangered in Colorado. Presently, only about 200 individuals of this race are known to exist in Colorado, primarily in Douglas County. Their historic range included portions of Jefferson County per the attached manuscript. To reduce the threat of extinction of plains sharptails in Colorado, we are examining suitable appearing habitats within the historic range for possible reintroductions. In this regard, the Boulder Open Space lands north of Rocky Flats and the Rocky Flats property itself superficially are attractive as a potential reintroduction site. However, before reintroductions can be contemplated, considerable data need to be collected.

Questions that need to be answered are

- 1 Are there any sharptails presently in the area where a transplant may be considered?
- 2 What is the size of the area with potential habitat?
- 3 What vegetation types are present within the potential transplant area?
- 4 What is the amount of residual cover present during the nesting period (May-June) and Fall?

Thus, we request permission for limited access to the Rocky Flats property to address these 4 questions. Similar access permission has been requested and received from Boulder Open Space. The work that needs to be done is of short duration, 1-2 days each time spaced over March-May (breeding surveys) and May-June and probably August/September (vegetation analysis). Breeding surveys

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES Hamlet J. Barry Executive Director

WILDLIFE COMMISSION William R. Hegberg, Chairman • Dennis Luttrell, Vice Chairman • Eldon W. Cooper, Secretary
Felix Chavez, Member • Rebecca L. Frank, Member • Gene B. Petersen, Member • George Van Den Berg, Member • Larry M. Wright, Member

DOCUMENT CLASSIFICATION
REVIEW WAIVER PER
CLASSIFICATION OFFICE

ADMIN RECORD

Ron Zuck
March 22, 1990
Page two

would involve use of parabolic ear listening device and field glasses with stops at about 1/2 mile intervals along approved trails or roads. If birds were thought to be heard, walking to the area of suspected bird use would be required. These surveys would be in the early AM (0430-0730 hrs) at a frequency of no more than 1/week. The vegetation surveys would be somewhat more intensive as a hand-held "Robel" pole would be used to measure vegetation height along proscribed transects. These surveys would be during "normal" working hours in May-June and probably late August-early September.

The people doing the actual work under my supervision would be Orlando DeHerrera (breeding surveys) and Todd Abell (vegetation surveys). All of us would be working from Colorado Division of Wildlife vehicles.

Please advise if you have questions. I can be reached at 484-2836 in Fort Collins. We would appreciate having limited access starting in early April to facilitate searches for grouse.

Sincerely,



Clait E. Braun
Wildlife Research Leader

CEB dh
Attach

xc K Demarest
T Howard
O DeHerrera
T Abell